MARVEL #24

PAST LIVES

After surviving a future known as the Wastelands where everything good in the world was destroyed, Old Man Logan awoke in the present, determined to prevent the death of his wife and children. Even after accepting this second chance, he is haunted by the loss of his family.

Logan is lost in time. He's stumbled from memory to memory, reliving each through the magic of Asmodeus, a magical baddie that double-crossed Logan the second he was able to. Now, Logan has awakened in the Wastelands, with his family--wife Maureen, son Scotty and daughter Jade--alive and well. Could Logan get the closure he's been looking for?

Meanwhile in the present and unbeknownst to Logan, Asmodeus is planning on selling Logan's re-programmed and soulless body to highest (and most evil) bidder!

OLD MAN LOGAN

PAST LIVES: PART IV of IV

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I DON'T WANT TO OPEN MY EYES AND FIND OUT IT'S *NOT REAL.*
BUT THEN I DO. AND IT IS.
MORNING, COWBOY.
WHAT GOT INTO YOU LAST NIGHT?
I-- I JUST MISSED YOU, I GUESS.
YOU GETTING *SENTIMENTAL* IN YOUR OLD AGE, LOGAN?
NAH.
I'M RIGHT HERE, LOGAN. I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

COME ON. THE KIDS ARE PROBABLY ALREADY UP. I'LL MAKE YOU BREAKFAST.
THE KIDS. THE KIDS ARE HERE. WITH ME. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THERE IS A PART OF ME DEEP DOWN THAT WON'T LET ME BELIEVE IT.
BUT HERE THEY ARE. AND HERE I AM. AND IT'S REAL. IT'S SO REAL.
MORNING, PA.
WHAT, SCOTTY? YOU CAN'T SAY GOOD MORNING TO YOUR PA?
MORNING.
JADIE, YOU NEED TO PUT THAT STUFF AWAY AND EAT YOUR BREAKFAST.
I WILL! I'M ALMOST DONE! I'M MAKING A CARD FOR DADDY.
WE, UH...WE GOTTA FIX THE COMBINE TODAY, RIGHT, PA?
RIGHT. YEAH. SOUNDS GOOD, BUB.
BREAKFAST. CHORES. ALL THE LITTLE THINGS I'D STARTED TO FORGET.

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW GOOD IT WAS...IT *IS*. JUST BEING WITH THEM. JUST DOING *NORMAL THINGS*.
GIMME THE ADJUSTABLE.
THIS ONE?
YEP.
I DON'T KNOW, PA. THE WHOLE ENGINE BLOCK IS PRETTY RUSTED OUT. I THINK WE MIGHT NEED A NEW ONE.
THERE'S *ALWAYS A WAY* TO FIX THINGS, SCOTTY.
ALWAYS A WAY TO FIX THINGS.

BUT IS THAT REALLY TRUE? HAVE I FINALLY FIXED EVERYTHING? HAVE I FINALLY GOTTEN WHAT I WANTED?
CAME BACK FOR BANNER'S GRANDKID, BUT I ENDED UP GETTING SO MUCH MORE.
AND THAT'S WHEN I MAKE UP MY MIND. IN THAT INSTANT...I'M DONE QUESTIONING THINGS. I'M DONE LOOKING FOR THE *FLAWS.*
THIS IS REAL. AND I'M GOING TO ENJOY EVERY LAST SECOND OF IT.
I AM HERE. I AM *HOME.*

NEW JERSEY. NOW.
LET US OUT OF HERE, ASMODEUS! WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING ELSE TO DO WITH YOUR CREEPY @#$%.
NO! NO ONE LEAVES! NOT UNTIL WE ARE DONE WITH OUR BUSINESS HERE.
WAIT--
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETHING HAS--SOMETHING HAS CHANGED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I THOUGHT YOU HAD HIM UNDER YOUR CONTROL?
I--I DID. I DO. BUT SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO HIM. THE SPELL, IT'S GETTING WEAKER.
WHA--?!
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK

WHAT'S UP, BUBS? AN *OLD FRIEND* OF MINE TOLD ME THERE WAS GOING TO BE A LITTLE PARTY HERE TODAY.

X-MEN!

I'M HERE ON UNOFFICIAL BUSINESS, ACTUALLY.

THOUGH I DID BRING ALONG A *FRIEND.*

JEAN?

ASMODEUS. RELEASE LOGAN FROM WHATEVER SPELL YOU'VE CAST ON HIM. *NOW.*

I--I CAN'T.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *YOU CAN'T?*

THE SPELL-- I HAVE *LOST CONTACT* WITH HIS CONSCIOUSNESS. HE--HE IS *LOST* SOMEWHERE IN TIME.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, TODAY?
NOTHING.
DON'T GIMME THAT. YOU'RE QUIET. ACTING LIKE A BROODY TEENAGER.
SO?
AND YOU'RE ACTING ALL NORMAL.
SO, DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT DAY IT IS?
SHE IS A NATURAL, ISN'T SHE, LOGAN?
HUH?

JADE. SHE WAS BORN TO RIDE.
SHE SURE IS.
PA, SHE SHOULDN'T BE OUT THERE. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU...
"...TODAY IS PAYMENT DAY. THEY'RE COMING."
MAUREEN. GET HER BACK HERE.
LOGAN, WHAT'S--
NOW.

JADE!
NOW AIN'T SHE JUST THE CUTEST THING, CHARLIE?
IF YOU SAY SO, SIS. NEVER REALLY TRUSTED REDHEADS.
PA--
STAY HERE AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING, SON.

BANNERS. WHATTA YOU WANT?
YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE, LOGAN. RENT IS DUE.
HE AIN'T GOT IT, CHARLIE. I JUST BET HE AIN'T GOT IT.
I'LL HAVE IT SOON. GOING TO THE MARKET TOMORROW TO DO SOME TRADING.
TOMORROW AIN'T GOOD ENOUGH, LOGAN.
YOU KNOW WHAT THE PENALTIES ARE FOR BEING LATE. SO YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR BEATING, OLD MAN?
OR WE GOTTA FLATTEN YOUR CRAPPY LITTLE FARM?
I JUST HAVE TO POP MY CLAWS AND I GUT THESE BIG GREEN #&$ RIGHT HERE. THEN IT'S ALL DIFFERENT. MAUREEN, JADE AND SCOTTY DON'T DIE.
THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHERE I FINALLY CHANGE THINGS.

BUT--I CAN'T. I TRY, BUT I LITERALLY CANNOT POP MY CLAWS.
--UNGH!
I CAN'T CHANGE IT. IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE.
WHATEVER ASMODEUS DID TO ME TO SEND ME HERE, I'M POWERLESS TO CHANGE THE BIG THINGS.
AND THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT? THAT'S THE CATCH. THAT'S THE FLAW I'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO IGNORE ALL MORNING.
WE'LL BACK TOMORROW, RUNT.
I MAY HAVE THEM BACK.
S'OKAY. I'M OKAY.
BUT NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO WATCH THEM DIE ALL OVER AGAIN.

"WATCH THEM DIE ALL OVER AGAIN."
WHAT DID YOU SAY, JEAN?
I--I HEARD SOMETHING, BOBBY. IT WAS FAINT, BUT THERE'S STILL A PART OF HIM IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
NEW JERSEY. NOW.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!
HOW-- HOW DID YOU FIND US?
LOGAN TOLD ME. A LONG TIME AGO. HE WARNED ME ABOUT THIS DAY AND THIS PLACE. HE'S BEEN TRYING TO GET HOME!
NOW YOU'RE EITHER GOING TO FIX THIS, OR I AM GOING TO FREEZE YOUR BRAIN RIGHT IN YOUR SKULL!
SHH! QUIET, BOBBY! I NEED TO THINK!

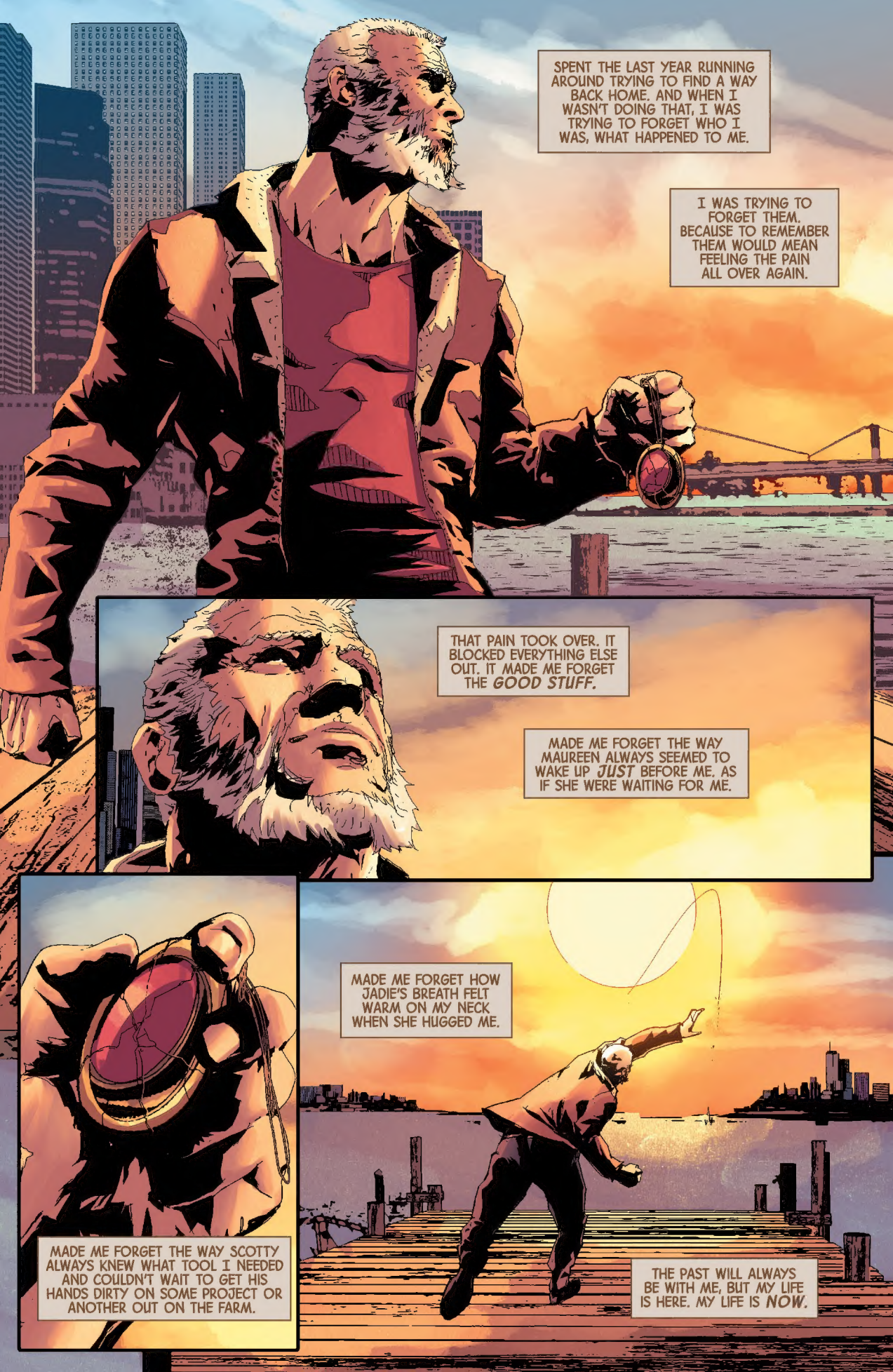
"I NEED TO FIND HIM!"
HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY THEM, LOGAN?
TOLD YOU. I'LL GO TO THE MARKET. TRADE SOME TOOLS.
BUT WE'LL NEED THOSE TO FIX THE COMBINE, PA.
THEN I'LL FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO TRADE IN. BLACK BUTCHER IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A DEAL.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, PA. THE HULK GANG BEAT YOU UP PRETTY BAD THIS TIME.
DON'T WORRY, SON. IT'LL HEAL.
I'LL HEAL. I'LL BE FINE. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT'S SCOTTY AND JADIE AND MAUREEN THAT WON'T BE.
I TRY TO REASSURE THEM, BUT IT'S HALF-HEARTED. BECAUSE NOW I KNOW THAT IT'S INEVITABLE. I CAN'T PROTECT THEM.
PA...
I CAN'T HELP THEM ANY MORE THAN I COULD HELP BANNER'S GRANDSON. I WAS FOOLISH TO THINK I COULD SAVE HIM, TOO. HE'S DESTINED TO BE WHATEVER HE'S DESTINED TO BE.

HEY, RED. WHAT'S UP? YOU OKAY?
I'M OKAY. BUT I FEEL SAD THAT THEY HIT YOU LIKE THAT, PA.
I'M TOUGH AS THEY COME, JADIE. DON'T EVEN HURT ANYMORE.
I KNOW, BUT I STILL FEEL BAD.
I MADE YOU SOMETHING SO YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
YOU MADE SOMETHING FOR ME? WELL, THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY, AIN'T IT? LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT BEHIND YOUR BACK THERE.
I FIXED YOUR PRETTY NECKLACE...
...GLUED IT ALL BACK TOGETHER FOR YOU.
ASMODEUS' AMULET.

THAT'S-- THAT'S SWEET, JADE. WHAT IS THAT THING, LOGAN? I HAVEN'T SEEN IT BEFORE...?
AND HERE IT IS. MY CHOICE. I TAKE THAT BACK AND I LEAVE THIS PLACE. I LEAVE THEM.
IT--
OR I STAY AND I *LOSE THEM.*
I LOVE YOU, JADE. LOVE YOU *SO MUCH.*
LOVE YOU TOO, PA.
IT AIN'T NO CHOICE AT ALL REALLY.
GIMME A HUG, JADIE. A BIG ONE.

ONE DAY SOON I WILL COME HOME TO FIND THEM DEAD.
BUT NOT TODAY. TODAY THEY ARE ALIVE.
AND THIS--THIS HAS BEEN THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE.
→GASP!←

LOGAN?! ARE YOU OKAY?
I--
LOGAN?
I'M OKAY, JEANNIE. I'M-- I'M BETTER THAN OKAY, ACTUALLY.
YOU REMEMBERED, ICEPICK?
I'M NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE, YOU KNOW, LOGAN.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS DIRTBAG?
TOSS HIM BACK IN THE HOLE I FOUND HIM IN.
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING?
FOR A WALK. CATCH YOU GUYS BACK AT THE MANSION. NEED SOME AIR.


SPENT THE LAST YEAR RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO FIND A WAY BACK HOME. AND WHEN I WASN'T DOING THAT, I WAS TRYING TO FORGET WHO I WAS, WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
I WAS TRYING TO FORGET THEM. BECAUSE TO REMEMBER THEM WOULD MEAN FEELING THE PAIN ALL OVER AGAIN.
THAT PAIN TOOK OVER. IT BLOCKED EVERYTHING ELSE OUT. IT MADE ME FORGET THE *GOOD STUFF.*
MADE ME FORGET THE WAY MAUREEN ALWAYS SEEMED TO WAKE UP *JUST* BEFORE ME, AS IF SHE WERE WAITING FOR ME.
MADE ME FORGET THE WAY SCOTTY ALWAYS KNEW WHAT TOOL I NEEDED AND COULDN'T WAIT TO GET HIS HANDS DIRTY ON SOME PROJECT OR ANOTHER OUT ON THE FARM.
MADE ME FORGET HOW JADIE'S BREATH FELT WARM ON MY NECK WHEN SHE HUGGED ME.
THE PAST WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME, BUT MY LIFE IS HERE. MY LIFE IS *NOW.*

THE END.

DEDICATED TO MARK MILLAR and STEVE McNIVEN with gratitude and respect. —JL

NEXT:

ISSUE 25

NEW STORY STARTS HERE

WITH A BRAND-NEW CREATIVE TEAM!
ED BRISSON & MIKE DEODATO, JR.

JUNE 2017